

# ADJECTIVES V. ADVERBS

## THE SKILL

Hopefully you've heard of adjectives and adverbs before. Years ago, when your teacher was explaining these two parts of speech, you were probably thinking, "When I am ever going to need to know the difference between an adjective and an adverb?" Well, that day has arrived! Now, the ACT won't actually use the terms *adjective* or *adverb*, but it is going to use these *types* of words to describe something else in a sentence. Your job is going to be to figure out if the words in question are describing someone or something (use an adjective) or if they are describing how, when, or where an action occurs (use an adverb).

## WHAT THESE QUESTIONS LOOK LIKE

It is **(4) real difficult** to believe in the existence of aliens.

4.      F. NO CHANGE  
          G. real difficulty  
          H. difficult really  
          J. really difficult

We should use the adjective *difficult* to describe the pronoun *it*. The adverb *really* should be placed in front of *difficult* to describe HOW difficult it is. J is the correct answer.

## STRATEGIES TO WIN

When should you use an adjective, and when should you use an adverb? Follow these steps:

1. Determine which word in the sentence the adjective or adverb is describing.
2. Once you've found that word, ask yourself:
  - a. Is this word a person or a thing (noun)? If so, choose an ADJECTIVE to describe it.
  - b. Is this word an action (verb)? If so, choose an ADVERB to describe it. Remember, adverbs can also describe adjectives or other adverbs.

**Watch Out!** Adverbs usually end in *-ly*. But words like *very*, *always*, *never*, and *well* (among others), can also be considered adverbs because they tell *when*, *how*, or *to what extent* an action occurs.

Similarly, some adjectives, like *friendly*, *lovely*, and *silly*, end in *-ly*. The *-ly* suffix is a helpful clue for identifying an adverb, but it isn't a guarantee.

# ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS PRACTICE

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## Roswell, New Mexico

Nowadays, the name Roswell is synonymous with UFOs. How did this **(1) New Mexico quiet town become** the center of extraterrestrial speculation? More importantly, what really happened there?

In the summer of 1947, reports circulated of **(2) mysteriously debris** discovered in the deserts outside of Roswell. Military spokespeople explained that they recovered the remnants of a weather balloon. With that explanation, **(3) the incident in Roswell faded from public interest for decades simply.**

**(4) Revivedly interest in Roswell resulted** from an interview conducted with Major Jesse Marcel in 1978, who was present at the scene. He described a military cover-up of a crashed alien spacecraft and actual alien cadavers. A decade later, mortician Glenn Davis added his account of secret military-conducted alien autopsies.

A 1995 internal investigation concluded that the recovered object was, in fact, a top secret air balloon. The accounts of alien autopsies **(5) likely were the result** of a blatant hoax or unreliable memories. However, there are still plenty of skeptics who believe that whatever occurred in Roswell was out of this world.

1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. New Mexico town quiet become  
C. quiet New Mexico town become  
D. New Mexico town become quietly
2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. debris mysteriously  
H. mysterious debris  
J. debris that was mysterious
3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. the simple incident in Roswell faded from public interest for decades.  
C. the incident in simple Roswell faded from public interest for decades.  
D. the incident in Roswell simply faded from public interest for decades.
4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. Interest revived in Roswell resulted  
H. Revived interest in Roswell resulted  
J. Interest in revived Roswell resulted
5. A. NO CHANGE  
B. were the likely result  
C. likely resulted  
D. like, were the result